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Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Other matters

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests has before it for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. In this connection, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, comprising part one: plan outline, and part two: biennial programme plan, which would replace the four-year medium-term plan.

2. The attention of the Forum is drawn to rule 104.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8):

> "The Secretary-General shall take appropriate measures to submit proposals to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, to enable them to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly."

3. The Forum is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for the subprogramme on sustainable forest management contained in the annex to the present note and to provide its comments thereon to the Secretary-General. The biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. Also included in the annex are the legislative mandates for the subprogramme.

* E/CN.18/2004/1.

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4. Although in paragraph 9 of its resolution 58/269, the General Assembly has decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles will be identical to those in the biennial programme plan, it is recognized that the review of progress and consideration of future actions, as well as the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangements on forests to be undertaken by the Forum at its fifth session in 2005 may give rise to revisions in the work programme to be implemented under the subprogramme in 2006-2007. Any modifications to the subprogramme following the fifth session of the Forum will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council. On the basis of the action taken by the Council, the Secretary-General shall make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly on any necessary revisions to the programme narratives of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

Annex

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

Subprogramme 9
Sustainable forest management

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen long-term political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels in pursuit of broader development goals in the economic and social sectors, environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective international dialogue and agreements on forests that contribute to the integration of sustainable forest management issues into the broader development goals as well as to the understanding of the inter-linkages between forests and other sectors	(a) Number of resolutions, decisions and other outcomes of intergovernmental bodies that are based on policy options proposed by the subprogramme
(b) Enhanced monitoring, assessment and reporting on internationally agreed forest-related actions on the implementation of sustainable forest management, based on a common understanding of forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions, including through further development and use of established criteria and indicators developed by regional processes	(b) Increase in the number of reports, including case studies, submitted by countries and other stakeholders that utilize forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions
(c) Increased international cooperation, collaboration, coordination and knowledge exchange among Governments, major groups, organizations, instruments and processes, including through activities by the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests	(c) Number of partnerships, collaborative activities and country and organization-led initiatives undertaken to support the international forest policy dialogue

Strategy

The Forum secretariat is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and supporting implementation of forest-related aspects of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, as well

as those stemming from the Intergovernmental Panel of Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests processes; the United Nations Forum of Forests, and any mandates decided upon by the forthcoming review at the fifth session of the Forum;

(b) Providing substantive support for continued policy development, dialogue and agreements among Governments, international organizations and other interested parties, including major groups;

(c) Participating in and servicing the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments;

(d) Facilitating monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress of national, regional and global actions in sustainable forest development as well as undertaking research, analysis and dissemination of this data and information, including through the Forum's web site (www.un.org/esa/forests);

(e) Contributing to strengthened international cooperation, including by acting as a catalyst for financial resources and fostering North-South and public-private partnerships in sustainable forest management;

(f) Providing substantive support to mobilization and exchange of technical and scientific knowledge and information, including through the provision of technical advisory services upon request and conducting training courses, seminars and workshops.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/241	International financial system and development
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
58/269	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2000/35	Report on the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

2003/6 The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

2002/1 Agreed conclusions on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration